



# NEWS

CONTACT: Fran Clader  
(916) 657-7202

Media Relations Office  
2555 First Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95818

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2007

07-02

### **CHP Crackdown Saves Lives During Holidays**

#### *Traffic Deaths Decline Over Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Weekends*

(SACRAMENTO) Traffic fatalities within the jurisdiction of The California Highway Patrol declined sharply during the three most recent major holiday weekends. Each extended holiday weekend was a Maximum Enforcement Period, which meant up to 80 percent of CHP's officers were on the road during those weekends.

"A lot of our people gave up a lot of quality time with their families to be out there keeping the public safe. I want to thank them for a job well done," stated CHP Commissioner Mike Brown.

During the New Years Maximum Enforcement Period (6pm December 29 through 11:59pm January 1) 28 people were killed within the CHP's jurisdiction as compared to 34 last year. There were also 1,481 people arrested for DUI by CHP officers compared to 1,145 last year. During the recent Christmas MEP 18 people were killed within CHP jurisdiction compared to 26 during the 2005 Christmas MEP. DUI arrests totaled 1,351 compared to 1,209 in 2005. This past Thanksgiving 22 people were killed within CHP jurisdiction compared to 48 in 2005. DUI arrests rose to 1,670 from 1,521 in 2005.

"In addition to the added enforcement, the CHP also redoubled its efforts to get the word out to the motoring public that we would have zero tolerance for those who disobey traffic laws," stated Commissioner Brown.

CHP officers throughout the state reported that some of the DUI arrests were the result from motorists responding to Caltrans Changeable Message Signs that asked motorists to report drunk drivers by calling 9-1-1.

"The public has been very responsive to those message signs and I want to thank everyone who helped our officers keep the roadways safer this holiday season," said Commissioner Brown. "I also can't say enough in praise of the efforts of Caltrans, the state Office of Traffic Safety, Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Department of Motor Vehicles and the local law enforcement agencies for their tremendous efforts."

# # # #